

WE CLAIM:

1. A process for preparing a monosheet black and white photothermographic recording material, said photothermographic recording material being exclusive of a dye-providing compound and comprising a support and a photo-addressable thermally developable element, said photo-addressable thermally developable element being thermally developable under substantially water-free conditions and consisting of one or more layers, said layers together comprising photosensitive silver halide, a substantially light-insensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent therefor in thermal working relationship therewith and a binder, comprising the steps of: (i) coating at least one of the one or more layers of the photo-addressable thermally developable from an aqueous medium; (ii) drying said layer or layers coated in step (i); and (iii) heating said photothermographic recording material at a temperature of at least 35°C in the dark for a period of at least 3 days.
2. Process according to claim 1, wherein said temperature is at least 40°C.
3. Process according to claim 1, wherein said temperature is at least 45°C.
4. Process according to claim 1, wherein said temperature is less than 50°C.
5. Process according to claim 1, wherein said period is at least 1 week.
6. Process according to claim 1, wherein said heating is carried out at a relative humidity between 10 and 75%.
7. Process according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said photothermographic recording material is heated for 1 week in the dark at 45°C and 70% relative humidity.
8. A photothermographic recording material obtainable by the process of claim 1.